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KOREA

1. Lull in combat operations broken--The lull in combat operations around Taejon is being broken by heavy bombardment from North Korean positions near the outskirts of the former provisional capital of South Korea. Considerable enemy movement in the vital central Korean corridors leading to the south took place during the past 24 hours, and US aerial observers report a continuing build-up of enemy tanks, trucks, and troops, which may indicate preparations for an all-out attack against the main rail line at Kumchon and Taegu. The rich rice area of southwest Korea is virtually undefended, and other invading forces advancing to the west of Taejon may attempt to secure this region for North Korea. On the east coast, the US 1st Cavalry Division has completed disembarking at Pohang and is already several miles inland; carrier aircraft from the landing support force struck hard at airfields and installations north of the 38th Parallel.

Past failure of the Republic of Korea to win the support of its restless student class may lie behind reports that over 50 percent of Seoul's students are actively aiding the Communist invaders, with many voluntarily enlisting in the Northern Army. Among other elements of Seoul's population, the working class generally supports the Northern Koreans; merchants are neutral and the intelligentsia continue to be pro-Southern. North Korean troops and police are rather inconspicuous in Seoul. Commercially, the city is nearly "dead"; streets are crowded, however, especially with youths engaging in Communist demonstrations.

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2. FRANCE: Views on Western European defense--US Ambassador Bruce in Paris, in discussing the impact of recent Korean events on the people of France and other Western European nations, expresses the opinion that new planning and action for the defense of Western Europe are needed if the Western Europeans are to

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be kept from "yielding ultimately, and perhaps rapidly, to the counsels of despair." Bruce feels that recent events in Korea have made the French feel more defenseless than ever, and if US reverses continue, there is a danger that France will become convinced that the US would be incapable of repelling an invasion of France or its neighbors. The Ambassador points out that for months the "neutralists" in France have been spreading the doctrine that, because the US is powerless to protect Western Europe and France cannot avoid destruction in the event of war, France should not support the NAT and the MDAP, which create the illusion of security. Bruce observes, however, that the French are singularly calm in the face of recent events, and he believes they would respond vigorously to radical measures designed to transform paper security into reality.

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3. SOVIET UNION: No evidence of general mobilization in Moscow-- US Military Attache Moscow reports there is no evidence available in Moscow of increased mobilization or induction of reserves. The Attache adds that the number of men of various ages being called for military service is not alarming, and points out there has even been a recent increase in demobilized men on the streets of Moscow. Activity at the War Ministry, military committee offices, railway stations, and similar places does not indicate that Soviet reserves are being called into service.

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